REMARKS

The January 13, 2005 Final Official Action and the reference cited therein have been carefully reviewed. In view of the following remarks, the entry of the present amendments, and the favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 9, 15, 20 and 24 have been amended with relatively minor, wording changes to clarify their meaning. After the careful review of the Examiner's reasons for rejection in the previous Office Action, these amendments are being requested at this point, in an effort to place them in a better condition to clarify the invention's essential features. Since these features were essentially described in the Applicant's previous response, Applicant did not believe that they were necessary at that time. However, they are proposed now, to facilitate placing this application in condition for allowance.

Essentially, the terms "IP address assignment log" has replaced the references to "IP address usage information". Also, Applicant has further detailed that the IP address gets "used by the user". This is supported at paragraph [0078] of the specification, and its accompanying FIG. 3B, which clearly show a log indicating the user to whom the temporary IP address gets assigned, and the connection start/end times, as comprising the "User-IP Address Usage Information".

The term "associate" has been supplemented with the somewhat narrowing term "compare". Support for this can be found at paragraphs [0078] – [0080], paragraph [0089], and paragraphs [00138] – [00139]. These paragraphs clearly describe how the IP address assignment log (as exemplified by FIGS. 3A and 3B) and the Web access log (as exemplified by FIG. 4) get compared, resulting in the User-URL access information (as exemplified by FIG. 5). Then, the Web address gets outputted, in association with information regarding the user. One of ordinary skill in the art would understand these paragraphs to clearly reveal the "comparing" of the logs

FUJO\16714AM1.DOC

and the outputting of the results, in dealing with dynamic – as contrasted with static – IP address assignments.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter into the present application.

Claims 1-29 stand rejected again under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gupta et al. (US 6,487,538) ("Gupta"). Applicant respectfully traverses this basis for rejection.

Present Claim 1, in its amended form, recites:

> 1. A system for Internet connections, which connects a user to a network, comprising:
>
> an IP address usage log storage means for storing an assignment log regarding an IP address, along with an association with the user using that IP address;
>
> an access log recording means for recording an access log for a Web site in association with an IP address used by the user; and
>
> an access information output means for referencing said assignment log and said access log, to thereby compare said logs and output an address of the Web site, along with an association with information regarding the user accessing that Web site.

Essentially, the present invention involves a novel method of determining the user, using raw Web access logs.

Gupta discloses a method of specifying the user, utilizing the "raw database" of accessed Web sites and IP addresses (user's IP address). One can easily determine the user by looking at the IP address from which the Web access transmission originated, which is recorded in the Web access log.

FUJO\16714AM1.DOC

Additionally, Gupta also appears to discloses, at column 16, line 62 – column 17, line 12, a method for resolving cases where multiple family members use the same computer with the same IP address. Gupta proposes, as an example, concatenating the user's login name with the IP address, to uniquely identify a client and differentiate among family members.

Thus, a raw database according to Gupta may appear as follows:

Transmission Origination IP	Destination Web Site	Connection Time
10.10.0.1	www.yahoo.com	10:10-11:00
10.10.0.1	www.msn.com	13:10-14:00

In this case, a profile for User A can be:

IP address: 10.10.0.1

User ID: USERA.

Thus, one can easily ascertain in the above case that User A accessed Yahoo and MSN at the above-listed respective connection times.

However, one has difficulty specifying such associations when a single IP address gets assigned to various users at different times. Dynamic IP addressing occurs when an Internet Service Provider (ISP) dynamically assigns IP addresses to users in dial-up systems. In other words, the users get assigned "temporary" IP addresses, which last only for the duration of that Internet session, or some other duration of time.

In such frequent situations, looking at the IP addresses in the raw access logs would not necessarily reveal the users, at all. The present invention attempts to resolve this problem.

FUJO\16714AM1.DOC

This invention basically utilizes "usage information" for the IP address that gets dynamically -- or temporarily -- assigned to the user. For example, this information may occur as follows:

User ID	IP Address	Connection Time
USERA	10.10.0.1	10:00-11:30
USERB	10.10.0.1	13:10-14:00.

Thus, the IP address gets assigned to both User A and User B, at different times.

The present invention generates information about the usage of the temporary IP address ("IP address usage information") – that is, associations showing which users (e.g., User A or User B) used that IP address at what times.

Then, by using such dynamic "IP address usage information", along with the above-mentioned Web access logs, one can specify the users. In the above example, one can determine that User A accessed Yahoo and User B accessed MSN, with both User A and User B utilizing the IP address of 10.10.0.1, at different times.

In other words, by looking at the connection times, along with the above "IP address usage information", one can then determine which user accessed which Web sites.

Gupta very briefly mentions dynamic IP addressing at column 8, line 65. However, this very short mention occurs when describing the "off-line" setting up of the user's account with an ISP. This mention of dynamic IP addressing (which should only occur during on-line sessions), seems somewhat out of place. Gupta otherwise discusses static (rather than dynamic) IP addressing.

Nowhere else does Gupta disclose the above-described method of determining users during the dynamic assigning of IP addresses. Thus, we basically have three (3) essential elements recited in main Claim 1 of the present invention, as follows:

(1)   an IP address usage log storage means for storing an assignment log regarding an IP address, along with an association with the user using that IP address;

(2)   an access log recording means for recording an access log for a Web site in association with an IP address used by the user; and

(3)   an access information output means for referencing said assignment log and said access log, to thereby compare said logs and output an address of the Web site, along with an association with information regarding the user accessing that Web site.

As mentioned above, FIGS. 3A and 3B of the present application show examples of essential element (1), FIG. 4 shows an example of essential element (2), and FIG. 5 shows an example of the "associated" and "outputted" USER-URL access information of essential element (3).

Although Gupta discloses element (2) (the access log for a Web site), this cited reference does not disclose elements (1) and (3). Thus, applicant respectfully submits that the present application patentably distinguishes over this cited reference.

Furthermore, while Gupta relates to local advertising on the Internet, the present invention encompasses a far broader reach. It provides a novel system for Internet connections utilizing a simple structure including a substitute server 8 and an update server 9. This structure can even apply to the distribution of digital content programs stored at "a program distribution station for digital satellite broadcasting" (paragraph [0158]). According to this structure, digital

-14-

contents according to the user's preferences can be dynamically updated and displayed on the user terminal while the user is connected to the Internet.

Accordingly, one can provide historically unified, updated, geographically appropriate information to users, based on user preferences, even when such users use various different terminals or browsers.

Independent Claims 9, 12-16, 23, 24, and 26-29 recite systems, methods or programs similar to and/or corresponding to the above-mentioned system for Internet connections. They also cover various permutations, including distributing contents based on signal source information of the user (e.g., determining the geographical region from which the user accesses the Internet, such as while on a business trip).

Applicant respectfully submits that these claims, as well, patentably distinguish over Gupta, in that they disclose systems for Internet connections based on the above-described novel concepts.
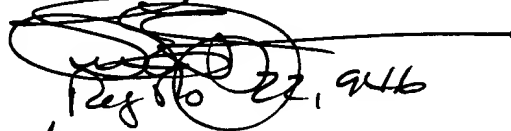
Claims 2-8, 10-11, 17-22 and 25 ultimately depend from and include all of the subject matter of independent Claims 1, 9, 12-16, 23, 24, and 26-29 and 9, respectively. Since the independent claims have been shown to be allowable, their respective dependent claims are also allowable over the cited reference.

For all of the reasons discussed herein, Claims 1-29 patentably distinguish over the cited reference of record and should be allowed. Such allowance is respectfully requested. Should there by any questions or other matters of which resolution may be advanced by a telephone call, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number listed below. All correspondence should be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}

Jeffrey M. Sakoi
Registration No. 32,059
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1713

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: _____4/13/05_____

JMS:snh

FUJO\16714AM1.DOC